

LENA C. TAYLOR

Wisconsin State Senator • 4th District

HERE TO SERVE YOU!

Testimony on SB 168 before the Senate Committee on Labor, Elections and Urban Affairs

Good Afternoon, Honorable Chair Coggs and members of the Senate Committee on Labor, Elections and Urban Affairs! I appreciate the opportunity to testify in strong support for Senate Bill (SB) 168 (Apprenticeship Bill) – which in my opinion is a commonsense bill. The bill that had unanimous support from both houses, last session, could not be pulled from the Senate Organization Committee to be heard on the Senate floor – and led to its “death”.

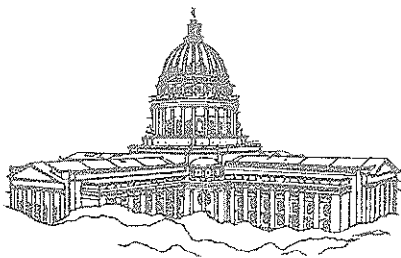
This bill was drafted at the behest of the Department of Regulation & Licensing (DRL). I have worked very closely with DRL and the Board of Barbering & Cosmetology, in recent times to garner input from residents as to how best to enable the professions and sub-specialties under B & C flourish. This piece of legislation is among others that were enunciated during the listening sessions that occurred.

This bill is merely a technical fix that would allow this delegation to take place as had been the case in years past. The practice of barbering or cosmetology licensees who were not managers supervising apprentices was allowed under the Board rules; and was common practice until the rule was changed following a legal interpretation of the Legislative Council. Their comments were that...“**the language conflicted with the provisions of statute.**”

The bill would therefore allow the industry to return to the former practice of allowing responsible licensees to supervise apprentices, and will expand the opportunities available to receive this training. More so, the cost for implementation is minimal.

It is my hope that this fix is executed in order that these professions will continue to thrive.

Thank you for your time.



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Testimony of Eric Peterson

Chief of Staff, Senator Lena Taylor

Assembly Committee on Jobs, the Economy, and Small Business

Senate Bill 168 - supervision of barbering or cosmetology apprentices

Honorable Chairman Molepske, Jr. and members of the committee,

Thank you for this hearing today on Senate Bill 168 **relating to:** supervision of barber or cosmetologist apprentices. Senator Taylor is pleased to join with Chairman Molepske, Jr. and others to introduce this bill at the request of the Department of Regulation and Licensing.

In the past few years, there have been numerous forums, meetings, and workshops with the barbering and cosmetology industry and DRL Secretary Celia M. Jackson. This bill, which will decrease the time and economic hardships that are placed on salons and barbershops in regards to apprentice training, is one of the products of those meetings. It has bipartisan support and has been unanimously agreed to throughout the legislative process.

To begin with, let me explain the current law in Wisconsin. An interested person may only learn barbering or cosmetology through an apprenticeship in a licensed shop. No apprentice may practice barbering or cosmetology except under the supervision of a licensed manager. This current law has placed a hardship on small businesses that only have one licensed manager. As a result, these businesses have missed opportunities for growth and employee development.

SB 168 permits a licensed manager to delegate supervisory authority over an apprentice to a licensed barber or cosmetologist who has completed at least 2,000 hours of practice as a licensed barber or cosmetologist. This bill will correct the undue burden that has been placed on many small barbershops and Beauty salons that only have one or a limited number of licensed managers.

Apprentices will no longer have to be confined to working only when a licensed manager is present. This increased flexibility in apprentice scheduling will open up training opportunities for individuals who would otherwise have to forgo training due to an inability to work when a licensed manager is present. Moreover, this law will make it possible for barbershop and salon owners to potentially hire more apprentices without having to be concerned about whether the licensed manager would be over burdened.

I am sure that each of us can find iconic images of the barbering and cosmetology industry in our life experience. Floyd Lawson, the barber from the Andy Griffith show comes to mind. However iconic our imagery may be, the barbering and cosmetology industries, especially in minority and urban communities, are often a critical piece of the small business community and provide the access to jobs that people need.

I urge your support of Senate Bill 168 and would be happy to answer any questions.

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WISCONSIN STATE REPRESENTATIVE
Louis J. Molepske, Jr.
71ST ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Statement of
Rep. Louis J. Molepske, Jr

SB 168
Assembly Committee on Jobs, the Economy, and Small Business
February 3, 2010

I appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill (SB) 168, a proposal dealing with apprentice training in the barbering and cosmetology profession.

I. Background

The bill was drafted at the request of the Department of Regulation & Licensing (DRL). Prior to its introduction, Senator Taylor, the DRL, and Board of Barbering & Cosmetology, engaged in a dialogue with residents to ascertain how to best enable the professions and sub-specialties under barbering & cosmetology to succeed. The result of these listening sessions was SB 168.

II. Current Law

Under current law, a person may learn barbering or cosmetology through an apprenticeship. No apprentice may practice barbering or cosmetology except under the supervision of a licensed manager. This bill permits a licensed manager to delegate supervisory authority over an apprentice to a licensed barber or cosmetologist who has completed at least 2,000 hours of practice as a licensed barber or cosmetologist.

III. SB 168

Specifically, SB 168 is designed to fix a technical problem which arose after a legal interpretation by Legislative Council. Under the previous rules of the Board of Barbering & Cosmetology the practice of allowing barbering or cosmetology licensees, who were not managers, to supervise apprentices was permitted. However, this practice was altered based on the interpretation of law to the contrary by the Legislative Council. Legislative Council maintained that the language of the rules conflicted with the provisions of statute.

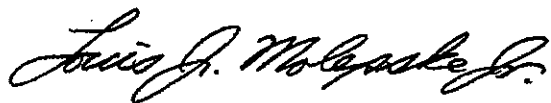
This Bill would allow the barbering and cosmetology industry to return to their previous practice of allowing responsible licensees, who have completed at least 2,000 hours of practice as a licensed barber or cosmetologist, to supervise apprentices. This would allow for the expansion of the profession through apprenticeship training. Furthermore, this legislation would also help the DRL to streamline their regulatory practices with regard to enforcement and help to spur economic development.

It is my belief that the execution of this technical fix will allow these professions to continue to prosper.

I urge your support of this bill and recommending its passage to the full Assembly.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Louis J. Molepske, Jr.".

Louis Molepske, Jr.
State Representative
71st Assembly District